United Nations A/56/776–S/2002/78

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
17 January 2002

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 20 (f), 43 and 166

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 15 January 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Foreign Ministers of the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, namely, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, met in Beijing on 7 January 2002 and issued a joint declaration (see annex).

On behalf of the Permanent Missions of the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, I have the honour to transmit herewith the attached joint declaration signed by the Ministers. I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20 (f), 43 and 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Shen** Guofang
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission
of China to the United Nations

02-22245 (E) 230102 240102

Annex to the letter dated 15 January 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese and Russian]

Joint declaration by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held, on 7 January 2002 in Beijing, an extraordinary meeting, during which the Ministers, having discussed current pressing problems relating to regional security and cooperation and prospects for developing the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, achieved broad mutual understanding and adopted the following joint declaration:

I

1. The unfolding of recent events in Afghanistan convincingly demonstrates the correctness and farsightedness of the policy selected by SCO for organizing on a priority basis cooperation between its States members in the area of maintaining regional security and stability and combating three threats — terrorism, separatism and extremism.

After the events of 11 September 2001, the heads of Government of the SCO States members quickly issued a special declaration, sharply condemning that terrorist act. SCO was one of the first international organizations that reacted to the events of 11 September.

2. As close neighbours of Afghanistan, we have been directly subjected, for a long period of time, to terrorist and drug-trafficking threats originating in its territory long before the events of 11 September and have repeatedly warned the international community about the danger of these threats. Precisely for this reason, the SCO States members actively participated in the anti-terrorist coalition and undertook measures to further intensify the work of SCO in the anti-terrorism field.

3. The SCO States members fully support the measures provided for under United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1377 (2001), 1383 (2001) and 1386 (2001) and are cooperating to the full extent with the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee established under resolution 1373 (2001).

II

1. The States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization welcome the deliverance of the Afghan people from the Taliban regime, which was closely linked to international terrorism, and support the efforts of Afghanistan, the States of the region and the entire international community to provide reliable guarantees ensuring that Afghanistan will never again be a centre for spreading terrorism, separatism, extremism and narcotic drugs.

2. We want Afghanistan to become a peaceful and neutral State which respects and observes human rights and fundamental freedoms, supports friendly relations with all neighbouring countries and carries out its international obligations.

3. The SCO States members support the Bonn Agreement of 5 December 2001 and the efforts of the Afghan people to establish a broadly representative government with the participation of the various ethnic groups. We shall provide active support to the interim administration of Afghanistan.

At the same time, we consider that merely the first step has been taken on the difficult path of the post-crisis construction of Afghanistan. We call on the international community to cooperate within the framework of the United Nations in order to prevent a further destabilization of the situation in Afghanistan, which might jeopardize the process of achieving a political settlement. We call upon all Afghans participating in this process to act on the basis of cooperation, and not confrontation.

4. Determining Afghanistan's future political system and the choice of the structure and nature of the government bodies are the inalienable right of the Afghan people themselves. All members of the international community must respect Afghanistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and State unity and prevent interference in its internal affairs, thereby creating favourable external conditions for the normal development of Afghan society. Any attempts to impose on Afghanistan one or another form of government or drawing that country into the sphere of anyone's influence may lead to a new crisis in and around Afghanistan.

5. We stress the need for close cooperation by the International Security Assistance Force with Afghanistan's interim administration. The activities of the International Security Assistance Force should be conducted in accordance with the United Nations Security Council mandate and with the consent of Afghanistan's legitimate authorities.

6. The SCO States members support the provision of broad international humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people and intend to make their contribution to these efforts through their own deliveries of aid and by providing transport corridors for shipments by other countries and international organizations.

7. The SCO States members advocate the continuation of the broad international efforts under the auspices of the United Nations aimed at Afghanistan's economic recovery. We also agree that the SCO States members will, both independently and acting within the framework of the United Nations, participate in projects for the economic reconstruction of Afghanistan.

III

1. The downfall of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan does not signify the automatic elimination of international terrorist units and groups. We condemn and are resolutely combating terrorism in all its manifestations and oppose the use of terrorist methods to achieve political objectives. We are fully determined to continue efforts in order to neutralize to the greatest extent the existing terrorist threat, including in the territories of our countries, and we call upon the international community to provide us with the appropriate support.

2. The SCO States members firmly advocate the view that counteracting terrorism, which has no specific national or regional affiliation, should not be identified as a struggle against any religion or freedom of religious belief, or individual countries or nationalities. The threat of terrorism must be effectively combated at all levels — the global, regional, and national levels. This struggle must be devoid of bias and "double standards". All the SCO States members are equally concerned about the terrorist threat, understand the actions taken by States members to combat that threat and consider them an important integral part of the international struggle against terrorism.

3. The SCO States members unanimously agree that the leading role in the international struggle against terrorism must be played by the United Nations and its Security Council. All anti-terrorist operations must be in keeping with the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other generally recognized norms of international law; the framework for such operations cannot be expanded arbitrarily, and they must not be accompanied by interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States. They must as a whole correspond to the long-term interests of maintaining peace in the region and throughout the world.

4. We believe that, in view of the current development of the situation, there is an urgent need for the international community to speedily draw up a comprehensive convention on combating international terrorism and a convention on combating acts of nuclear terrorism that will be acceptable for all sides.

5. The SCO States members consider that a worldwide system for counteracting terrorism must be based on regional, subregional and national structures and they resolutely intend to complete in the near future the establishment of a SCO anti-terrorist structure in Bishkek. They express the hope that similar structures will also be established within the framework of other regional and subregional associations, which will promote the international struggle against terrorism.

6. We call on the international community to devise a new concept of security based on principles of mutual trust, mutual advantage, equality and cooperation that promotes the settlement of questions of development and the problems of regional conflict, the radical reduction of factors that undermine security, and the eradication of the sources of terrorism.

7. The SCO States members express serious concern at the increased tension between India and Pakistan. We hope that the two countries will demonstrate restraint, prevent a further aggravation of the situation, renew political dialogue in order to bring about a suitable settlement of the problem, and join their efforts in the struggle against the worldwide terrorist threat.

IV

1. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is an open structure. We are prepared to engage in close cooperation with neighbouring States as well as States and associations outside the region in the task of ensuring security and stability in our region. SCO is prepared for constructive dialogue and cooperation with Afghanistan's interim administration and the future Afghan government structures and calls upon the legitimate Afghan leaders to cooperate closely with the organization.

2. The Afghan settlement process provides a unique historic chance to achieve long-term peace and stability in the region. SCO is firmly resolved to make a vital contribution to achieving this noble objective.

3. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the SCO States members discussed in detail the prospects for developing the organization's activities in all areas of priority.

We consider that expanding confidence-building measures, political cooperation, trade, economic and investment cooperation and cultural and humanitarian ties within the SCO framework is one of the most important prerequisites for strengthening regional security and stability.

4. On this basis, we shall make practical efforts to solve the problems of regional security and development and, at the same time, speed up the organizational formation of SCO and its structures for the organization's next summit in St. Petersburg in June 2002 in accordance with instructions from the heads of State and Government. We are confident that this will promote efforts to make SCO an important factor for supporting regional security and development.

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

(*Signed*)
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Beijing, 7 January 2002